

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

This Memorandum of Understanding is made by and between the Girl Scouts of the Green and White Mountains Council ("Council") and the Roman Catholic Diocese of Manchester ("Diocese").

Girl Scouting is proud of its long-standing relationship with the Catholic Church, dating back more than 100 years. The motivating force in Girl Scouting is spiritual and as a member of Girl Scouts, each girl is encouraged to become a stronger member of her own religious community.

The Diocese acknowledges the long history of mutual support with Girl Scouting. Girl Scout troops have been a consistent presence in many of our parishes and schools, working in close cooperation with pastors, principals, and other leaders for the benefit of young women and the broader community.

Based on mutual respect and shared values, the Council and the Diocese state as follows:

The Diocese:


- recognizes the positive impact that Girl Scouting has on girls, their development and their faith;
- strongly supports Catholic girls and leaders in Girl Scouting;
- approves of parishes and Catholic schools sponsoring troops, providing meeting space, and promoting involvement in Girl Scouts;
- shall continue to serve Catholic girls and adult volunteers through the religious recognition programs and other Catholic activities.

The Council:


- respects the religious faith and practices of all girls, and the role of parents and church leaders in providing religious instruction;
- promotes and provides support for the achievement of religious awards;
- operates troops associated with Catholic schools or parishes in compliance with Catholic teaching and diocesan policies, including safe environment expectations;
- does not take a position on issues of human sexuality, abortion or birth control, believing these are matters best discussed within the family;
- has no official relationship with Planned Parenthood or other organizations whose mission is at odds with Catholic teaching and will not partner with those organizations in programs or advocacy;
- confirms that all proceeds from Girl Scout cookie activities remain with the council and troops;
- recognizes that troops sponsored by Catholic institutions generally express global solidarity and service by means other than use of the WAGGGS pin or activities;
- agrees to maintain regular, ongoing communications with the Diocese of Manchester, generally through the Director/chaplain for Catholic Scouting and/or the Catholic Committee on Scouting.

The Council and the Diocese are committed to maintaining open communication regarding concerns or questions that may arise, and they will assist troops, leaders, and parents in providing a fruitful experience for their Girl Scouts. This memorandum shall be in effect for a period of two years and is renewable.

Girl Scouts of the Green and White Mountains Diocese of Manchester



By: Patricia K. Mellor
Its: Chief Executive Officer
Date: August 9, 2017



By: Most Rev. Peter A. Libasci
Its: Bishop
Date: 7/16/2017